

The Lady Hornets have carried on the school's proud tradition of excellence by bringing home the St. Elizabeth High School's fourth state softball championship.

I ask that you join me in recognizing the St. Elizabeth Lady Hornets for a job well done.

IN HONOR OF MR. BOB PAYNTER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Bob Paynter, who is being honored by the Press Club of Cleveland and inducted into the Cleveland Journalism Hall of Fame, Class of 2011.

Bob was born and raised in Kirkwood, Missouri. He attended the University of Missouri—Columbia School of Journalism and graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1975. He first worked for the Akron Beacon Journal from 1981 to 1985 on crime, parole policies and political corruption. During his first period with the Journal he wrote a number of stories that helped free a man wrongly convicted of a child-murder case and led indirectly to conviction of the real killer.

Bob left the Greater Cleveland area and worked as a general assignment and projects reporter for The Dallas Morning News during 1986. He covered local courts and government and investigating the effects of lead pollution on inner-city children. Bob returned to Ohio working for the Akron Beacon Journal in January 1987. He worked as an investigative reporter and editor with the newspaper for the next 13 years. He covered topics such as campaign-finance abuses, failed drug-enforcement policies, illegal awarding of county sewer contracts, wrongful conviction of college student for date rape and evolution of race relations in the Akron area. In December of 1999 Bob began working for The Cleveland Plain Dealer as a projects editor and investigative reporter. During his 9 years with the Plain Dealer, Bob wrote on misconduct by the Parma police and the priests of the Cleveland Diocese and the "Cold-Blooded Liar" series. He is now the principal of Investigative Communications, LLC.

Throughout his career, Bob has been the recipient of some of journalism's most prestigious awards. As a result of his work on race relations in Akron Bob was awarded a Pulitzer Prize Gold Medal for Public Service. He received Worth Bingham and Sigma Delta Chi awards because of his work on the Ohio legislature's "Pay to Play" system and American Society of Newspaper Editors Local Watchdog Award while he was with the Plain Dealer.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mr. Bob Paynter as the Press Club of Cleveland inducts him into the Cleveland Journalism Hall of Fame, Class of 2011.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 809, I had district work that required my presence.

Had I been present, I would have voted, "yea."

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, designated as such in 1987. Since then, victims and their advocates have come together each October to shed light on this insidious and still far too pervasive social ill.

As co-founder of the National Network to End Domestic Violence and its first Executive Director, I worked with domestic violence advocates and policymakers to bring about critical programming and changes in national public policy through the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 1994 for victims of domestic abuse.

Since passage, great strides have been made to call attention and provide resources to address domestic violence. But the fight is far from over. Millions of women continue to suffer from assaults and rapes that cause long-term physical and mental health problems. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, each year, victims experience about 7.7 million intimate partner related physical assaults and rapes at a cost of \$5.8 billion, including \$4.1 billion in direct health care expenses.

As our economy recovers, it is important to appreciate the impact that the economic downturn has had on services providers due to increased demand, but limited resources. According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence, domestic violence is more than three times as likely to occur when couples are experiencing high levels of financial strain. The sad truth is service providers struggle to serve victims with constrained budgets. According to the National Center for Victims of Crime, 92% of victim service providers have seen an increased demand, but 84% reported that cutbacks in funding were directly affecting their work.

This past Tuesday, October 25th, I was joined by the Prince George's County State's Attorney Office, Congressional staffers, victims' rights advocates, law enforcement, and providers on a tour of the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center (DV/SAC) at the Prince George's Hospital in Cheverly, Maryland. The tour not only commemorated Domestic Violence Awareness Month, but provided all participants with a better understanding of the vital work being done by victim advocates in my State of Maryland and across our country, as well as the growing demand for special services for victims in this economic climate.

Established in 1973 and expanded in 2010, DV/SAC is located in the 4th Congressional District of Maryland, which I have the honor of representing in this Chamber. It offers a full range of hospital-based domestic violence services. The Center operates 24 hours a day and includes crisis intervention, crisis and follow-up counseling, safety planning, danger assessment, referral services, and victim advocacy. In 2010, DV/SAC provided sexual assault forensic exams and counseling to over 300 new victims, 1,700 individual and group counseling sessions, and over 1,000 crisis line inquiries answered, in addition to training medical staff and collaborating with community partners.

It is vitally important that we quickly reauthorize the life-saving and essential programs that protect so many women and families across our country. These programs save lives, contribute to our Nation's economic well-being, and break the devastating cycle of violence for future generations. We also need to maintain and even increase critical Family Violence Prevention and Service Act (FVPSA) and VAWA funding in these challenging economic times for not only our Nation, but also all the families across the United States.

The prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault throughout the country takes the work of a community and a commitment to providing women and men with resources and information to protect themselves. I look forward to continue working with victims, advocates, providers, and other Members of Congress in obtaining the necessary funding for these vital programs, while also working to strengthen VAWA through its reauthorization.

H.R. 3271, THE SECURITY AND FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT ACT

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Security and Financial Empowerment Act, better known as the SAFE Act.

Domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking are widespread problems that affect Americans from every background, ethnicity, and race. The prevalence of this violence is highlighted by the fact that nearly one in four women are beaten or sexually assaulted by a partner during adulthood and advocates are reporting an increase in the severity of these violent incidents.

These crimes have serious societal costs and gave physical and psychological impacts on their victims. Credible research has found that many women are trapped in abusive relationships due to their economic circumstances. As a result, victims often face the terrifying choice of living with abuse or leaving without the ability to support themselves and their children.

Under the SAFE Act, victims can take limited leave from work for safety planning and necessary court appearances without fear of losing their job. The SAFE Act also provides job protection when reasonable workplace safety modifications are requested.

The recent tragedy in Seal Beach, California—where a salon employee's ex-husband